

### The Coming Combless Fowl.

In the December issue of the American Poultry Journal, Mr. H. S. Babcock gives the origin and history of a new variety of fowls, which he calls the Mottled Aztecs.

Among the merits of this new breed, as pointed out by Mr. Babcock, "is one which merits special notice, and that one is that the Mottled Aztec is a chicken with almost no comb."

I am not seeking a controversy with the breeders of Leghorns, Minorcas, Langshans and of other varieties that have large combs, but I am coming to the point of saying that large combs are ornamental but of but little use. To the man or woman who says, "Oh, but the Standard says so and so," my reply is that the Standard was made for the chickens and not the chickens for the Standard; and if a combless chicken would be an improvement on the chickens as we have them, then let the head-gear go.

But there is an objection which I have not been able to get over, and that is the fact that good layers almost invariably have large combs. True enough the combs may be reduced, as in the rose comb varieties, without impairing the laying qualities; but even in these there is a disposition to "put up" comb when the hen is laying, and the question comes back again, Is it wise to try to do away with the comb?

It seems hardly necessary to say that the objection to a large comb is that it is liable to freeze.

From the standpoint of utility it seems that about the best combs are found among the Wyandottes, and it happens that the Wyandottes rank high for eggs, especially as winter layers. Conceding then that laying qualities and large combs originally went together, we may still assume that combs may be bred down while laying qualities are bred up.

But to return to Mr. Babcock and the Mottled Aztecs: While the Black Aztecs were known some years before, it appears that this variety was first bred in 1896, but we are not told by what cross it was produced. Like the Wyandotte and the Plymouth Rock, it seems to be a combination breed.

Of the Mottled Aztec comb—if you have a hobby it is well to ride it all the time, provided you don't kick up too much dust in your neighbor's eyes—of the comb Mr. Babcock says:

"The Mottled Aztec is almost a combless fowl. The females, when not laying, show a bare strip where the comb should be, but when laying this increases slightly so that the hens are not quite combless, but have a faint apology for a comb. The young males look as if they had their combs cut off cleanly close to the head, but with age, and when fully furnished, show a small comb of the rose type but lacking the corrugations upon the upper surface of the spike which is associated with such a comb. If we are ever to have an absolutely combless breed, other than a crested one, the Aztec is likely to be the source from which it will spring. In time, by careful selection, it is possible, that the Aztec will be an absolutely combless breed."

But as I am advocating an anti-comb crusade, it would not be well to give your readers comb and nothing else in discussing the Mottled Aztecs. Mr. Babcock describes the new variety as follows:

"1. It is of medium size, say about 8 pounds for cock, 6½ pounds for hen. This is the size that makes the most desirable poultry for market. It avoids the extremes of too large and too small.

"2. It has a very compact form. The shoulders are broad, the thighs meaty, the breast remarkably well developed. This

ness at all stages of growth, and a large amount of flesh to the of-fal in the dressed poultry.

"3. It is a good layer of tinted eggs.

"4. The pullets mature rapidly and will lay at six months of age or earlier. I have had the black ones laying the middle of August, when much less than six months old, and the mottled are descended from the blacks.

"5. It produces remarkably fertile eggs. With me the eggs have hatched as well as, and I really believe better, than those of any other variety I have kept, including in this statement the two varieties.

"6. It is hardy. The chickens thrive from the start and it requires gross mismanagement to kill them, if they are kept protected from the various 'varmints' which delight in delicious poultry.

"7. It is a setting breed. The hens are good setters and good mothers. If there are any better hens for these purposes, I have failed to make their acquaintance.

"So much for practical qualities, and now a word about the general shape. To the compactness of the Indian Game is added the length of limb of the Wyandotte, and the full, well developed tail of the elegant Sumatra. The tail is not quite so long as that of the Sumatra, but the males have full, flowing tails. The plumage is not quite so short as that of Indian Game, but is shorter and lies more closely than it does upon the Plymouth Rock. The whole make up while suggesting to the practiced eye the figures of the Indian Game and of the Sumatra, shows other elements which make the type of the fowl distinctive, having no counterpart in any other recognized breed."

I stated that I was not seeking a controversy with breeders of Leghorns or Minorcas—for all cranks on comb the Leghorn breeders are the biggest—but if Mr. Babcock can trot out a chicken of the kind he has described he has a combination which lays us all in the shade and he has solved the problem of an all-round, all-purpose fowl.—Rusticus, in Southern Stock Farm.

### The Fancy Egg Trade.

As spring approaches, old biddy feels a desire to make herself useful to mankind as a natural incubator, while at the same time many an amateur fancier will feel a desire to purchase a setting of thoroughbred eggs for her to practice on.

But often their ambitions stops there. They are afraid that eggs shipped a long distance will not give satisfactory results, but this has been proven long ago to be a mistake.

Eggs, when packed properly, can be shipped from one end of the country to the other and hatch as well, or nearly so, as if they were set at home.

Purchasing eggs from a reliable breeder is a desirable and at the same time cheap way to get started in the thoroughbred poultry business.

But when you order, do not make the mistake of buying the cheapest eggs you can find, for here the old adage that the "best is always the cheapest," holds true. A setting of eggs from the best stock will introduce into your yards the efforts of an experienced breeder for years and will put you upon a footing with him in the quality of stock.

I would rather have one setting of eggs from line bred fowls scientifically bred than to have three settings at the same price as one which were from chance matings and not bred with any fixed aim.

Most all the prominent breeders can now pack eggs so they will carry any distance safely, and if they can't they should quit advertising and learn how.

Of course, buying stock is the quickest way to get a start

buying eggs, and this is my purpose to speak to those who want to get started with the best at a small outlay.

Now, in regard to breeds, pick out the one you like the best and try to make your stock still better. Any breed is good—better than mongrels. Of course there are some breeds better for individual purposes than others.

If you want large size, without regard to laying quality, there are the Brahmas and Cochins. For eggs without regard to size, the Leghorns, Hamburgs, Minorcas, etc.

But for general purposes, good layers—good size and good all around fowls, the Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks are hard to down.

Get started in the fancy poultry business. Buy one or more settings of eggs, and you will derive both pleasure and profit therefrom.

J. W. POWER, JR.  
Paris, Ky.

### PON LETTER.

Pon, Ky., Nov., 20.—The farmers will be very late sowing oats on account of so much rain.

Mr. Nick Blankenship moved his saw mill to Mr. N. O. King's farm last week.

Mr. Arthur Hord, of Pon, went to Hopkins county to visit his brother last week.

Mr. D. L. Barnes, of Fruit Hill, is some better at this writing.

Dr. Stetson, late of Kansas, has located at David Smith's, at Fruit Hill to practice medicine.

At present, the wheat is looking very badly.

Mrs. Gus Robinson, of Fruit Hill, was visiting friends and relatives here last week.

Mr. Robert Fields, while splitting out board timber, let one piece fall on his leg. He has a very sore leg.

Mr. Wiley Robinson's oldest daughter, of Fruit Hill, is very low with white swelling.

Bro. Henry Moore filled his regular appointment at the Christian church, at Dogwood, last Sunday, after the sermon was over the brethren organized a Sunday-school with Bro. Weddington as Superintendent, Bro. H. C. King, assistant superintendent. The meeting will be next Sunday evening at 2 o'clock.

Bro. Ransom, of your city, is conducting a series of meeting at Macedonia Baptist church this week.

Mr. L. B. King, our tobacco merchant, has bought nearly all of the tobacco in our vicinity.

HONEY BEE.

### Tribute of Respect.

Whereas, A beneficent Providence has removed from our midst, by the hand of death, our beloved brother, W. W. Crews, therefore be it resolved:

1st. That, while we deplore our loss, yet we sorrow not as those who have no hope, assured that the body of our brother sleeps in Jesus, and his blood-washed spirit dwells in that "presence where there is fullness of joy."

2nd. That in the death of Brother Crews Sharon church has lost a zealous member and an efficient officer, his family a loving husband and father and the community a good citizen and kind neighbor.

3rd. That we extend to sister Crews and family our deepest sympathy, and may the God of all grace, who hath promised to be a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless keep their minds and hearts through Jesus Christ.

4th. That a copy of this tribute of respect be sent to the HOPKINSVILLE KENTUCKIAN for publication, that a transcript of it be spread upon the minutes of Sharon Church and a copy given the family of our deceased brother.

W. R. CRUMP,  
J. R. BRAME, } Committee.  
J. J. SMITH.

Bennettstown, March 18, 1898.

As a rule cleanliness is next to godliness, but in St. Louis it's next to impossible.

DR. F. P. THOMAS

Office over Bank of Hopkinsville.

RESIDENCE—McPherson Place.

# ARE WE HERE TO STAY?



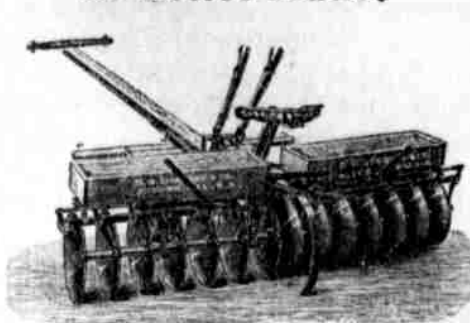
## YES SIR,

### WE MEAN BUSINESS!

## OSBORNE IMPLEMENTS

### SUCCEED WHERE OTHERS FAIL.

No Better Made.



OSBORNE

Rival Disc Harrows, main frame in one piece. Chilled bearings.

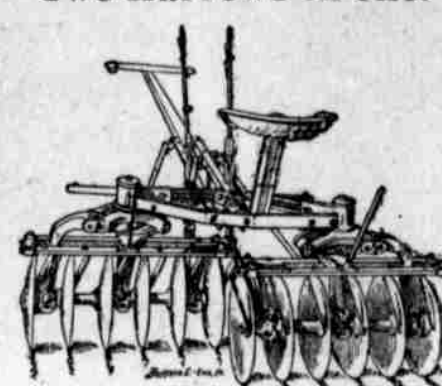
Twine.



SISAL,

Standard Manila and Pure Manila, all guaranteed.

Two Harrows in one.

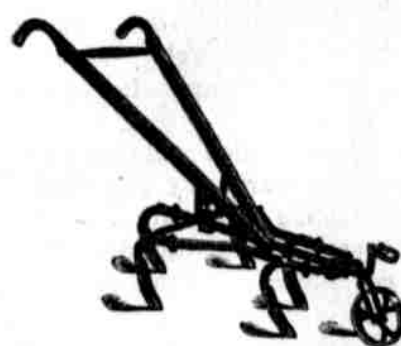


Columbia Flexible and Reversible Disc Harrow. You ought to see it.

STRONG AND DURABLE.



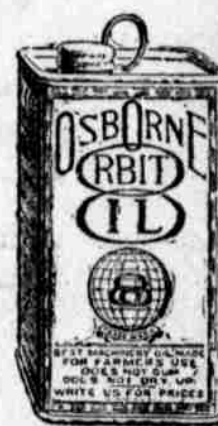
COLUMBIA MOWER, ROLLER BEARINGS.



COLUMBIA  
Five Tooth Cultivator.

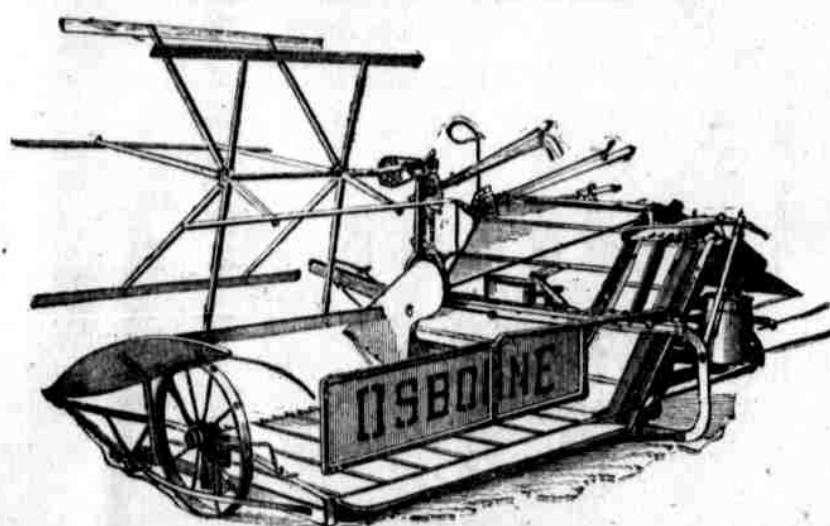


COLUMBIA, Jr.,  
Peg Harrow.



Machine Oil.

AH! HERE SHE IS!



COLUMBIA BINDER. ROLLER BEARINGS.

## CALL AND SEE SAMPLES.

Plenty descriptive catalogues. Get one of our Handy Books for House and Farm, with Receipts and other valuable information.

No trouble to show and price goods.

# Branham & Sheets